

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Linda Dierstein
RIF Coordinator

DATE: August 24, 2007

RE: *Reading Is Fundamental* (RIF) Mini-Grants

The Indiana Department of Education is again sponsoring **Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) mini-grants** to help support the distribution of free paperback books to children throughout the state to promote reading. These competitive RIF mini-grants are made available to schools which wish to sponsor a local RIF program during the school year. To be considered for funding, an applicant must agree to have three (3) book distributions to the same group of students and must complete the distributions prior to May 16, 2008. Participation in this program does not require that a school include its entire student body. If the school's resources are limited, a school may identify a single grade or a group of grades to be serviced by this program. Specific students within a classroom should not be identified.

The RIF mini-grants are to be used for book purchases only and will be three-to-one matching grant awards. For every \$1 of local funding, RIF will provide \$3 toward the purchase price. The Department of Education has received additional funding this year from national RIF so more money is available for larger schools. A total of approximately 100 mini-grants will be awarded statewide comprising the following categories.

For projects involving:

	RIF will provide:	LEA will provide:	Minimum Total
_____ up to 100 students	\$420.00	at least \$140.00	\$560.00
_____ 101 to 130 students	\$525.00	at least \$175.00	\$700.00
_____ 131 to 160 students	\$675.00	at least \$225.00	\$900.00
_____ 161 to 200 students	\$825.00	at least \$275.00	\$1100.00
_____ 201 to 230 students	\$975.00	at least \$325.00	\$1300.00
_____ 231 to 260 students	\$1125.00	at least \$375.00	\$1500.00
_____ 261 to 300 students	\$1275.00	at least \$425.00	\$1700.00
_____ 301 to 350 students	\$1500.00	at least \$500.00	\$2000.00
_____ 350 to 400 students	\$1650.00	at least \$550.00	\$2200.00
_____ 401 to 450 students	\$1800.00	at least \$600.00	\$2400.00
_____ 451 to 500 students	\$1950.00	at least \$650.00	\$2600.00
_____ 501 or more students	\$2175.00	at least \$725.00	\$2900.00

Local education agencies are required to have the matching funds secured when their applications are submitted; however, the money is not to be sent along with the application.

RIF's top priority is the nation's under served children. To serve these children, RIF has changed the selection process this year so that participating schools must have more than 35% of the students to be served on the free or reduced lunch program.

The RIF mini-grant program provides an excellent way for schools to promote recreational reading and home libraries at a minimum expense. A school wishing to implement a local RIF program should complete and return the enclosed application form. *This program is not available to any school that is currently operating a federal RIF project at any grade within the school.*

The application form and accompanying program outline must be received (not postmarked) by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 5, 2007**. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Additional information about the national Reading Is Fundamental program can be found at <www.rif.org>. If you have any questions about the Indiana mini-grant application process through the Indiana Department of Education or the RIF program in general, please contact Linda Dierstein at 317-232-9120 or by e-mail at <ldierste@doe.state.in.us>.

Attachments